

Plan Summary

Title: Design Values/Clean Data Determination 2012 – 2014: Determination of Attainment of the 1997 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS for the Baltimore, Maryland Serious Nonattainment Area

Federal Register Date: May 26, 2015

EPA Effective Date: This EPA initiated final rule was effective on June 25, 2015

Affected Area(s): Baltimore, Maryland Serious Nonattainment Area - Baltimore Area (specifically, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, and Howard County) Later, the Baltimore Area was reclassified as a serious nonattainment area for the 1997 ozone NAAQS. 77 FR 4901 (February 1, 2012). See 40 CFR 81.321.

Background of the Plan: On July 18, 1997, EPA revised the health-based NAAQS for ozone based on 8-hour average concentrations. 62 FR 38856. The 8-hour averaging period replaced the previous 1-hour averaging period, and the level of the NAAQS was changed from 0.12 parts per million (ppm) to 0.08 ppm. Id. On April 30, 2004 (69 FR 23858), EPA finalized its attainment/nonattainment designations for areas across the country for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. These actions became effective on June 15, 2004. Among those nonattainment areas was the Baltimore Area (specifically, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, and Howard County), which was designated as a moderate ozone nonattainment area. Later, the Baltimore Area was reclassified as a serious nonattainment area for the 1997 ozone NAAQS. 77 FR 4901 (February 1, 2012). See 40 CFR 81.321.

Summary: Air quality monitoring data from the 2012–2014 monitoring period indicate that the Baltimore Area is now attaining the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. On March 25, 2015 (80 FR 15711), EPA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR) for the State of Maryland. EPA has reviewed the complete, quality-assured and certified ozone ambient air monitoring data for the monitoring period for 2012–2014 for the Baltimore Area. The design values for each monitor for the years 2012–2014 are less than or equal to 0.084 ppm, and all monitors meet the data completeness requirements (see Table 1). Based on this 2012–2014 data from the Air Quality System (AQS) database and consistent with the requirements contained in 40 CFR part 50, EPA has concluded that the Baltimore Area attained the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

2012–2014 BALTIMORE AREA 1997 8-HOUR OZONE DESIGN VALUES

Monitor ID	Average percent (%) data completeness	2012-2014 Design Value (ppm)
24-003-0014	97	0.074
24-005-1007	95	0.072
24-005-3001	99	0.072
24-013-0001	99	0.069
24-025-1001	98	0.075
24-025-9001	96	0.073
24-510-0054	90	0.064

Conclusion: EPA has determined that the Baltimore Area has attained the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. This determination is based upon complete, quality assured, and certified ambient air monitoring data that show the Baltimore Area has monitored attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS for the 2012–2014 monitoring period.

This determination suspends the requirement for the Baltimore Area to submit an attainment demonstration, RACM, a RFP plan, contingency measures, and other planning requirements related to attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS for so long as the Baltimore Area continues to attain the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. Although these requirements are suspended, EPA is not precluded from acting upon these elements at any time if submitted to EPA for review and approval.

Finalizing this determination did not constitute a redesignation of the Baltimore Area to attainment for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS under CAA section 107(d)(3). This determination of attainment also did not involve approving any maintenance plan for the Baltimore Area and does not determine that the Baltimore Area has met all the requirements for redesignation under the CAA, including that the attainment be due to permanent and enforceable measures.

Therefore, the designation status of the Baltimore Area will remain nonattainment for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS until such time as EPA takes final rulemaking action to determine that the Baltimore Area meets the CAA requirements for redesignation to attainment.

Contact Person: Irene Shandruk, U. S. EPA, Region III
1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 814-2166